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COUNTRY Italy/Greece

DATE: 25X1X6

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SUBJECT Recruiting for International Brigades
for Greece

INFO.

DIST. 31 October 1947

PAGES 9

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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SOURCE

I. General

1. Information collected on recruiting for international brigades for Greece has failed to show positively that any organized recruiting is being carried out in the Milan area. All information received, while generally stating that such recruiting is taking place, fails to prove the existence of any organization. It shows, on the contrary, that up to this date any information which could be related to subject matter has been greatly trumped up with generic references to one or the other big Communist leaders mentioned as being at the head of this organization.
2. In the series of reports translated below, originating with various sources the only apparent confirmation from more than one source is in connection with the following:

- (a) Location of recruiting headquarters at Via Ceresio 12, Milan. This building (near the Monumentale Cemetery) was formerly the seat of a Fascist group and as such it has followed the fate of all such buildings formerly belonging to the Fascist Party the status of which has not been clarified. It is at present being used for the offices of various political parties including the "Baciocchi" Group of the Italian Anarchist Federation and a Communist section. The political parties prefer to use these former Fascist properties, as so far, no one requires the parties to pay any rent. The Via Ceresio 12 address has often been mentioned as being also the center for the recruiting for anti-Franco formations.
- (b) Location of another recruiting center at the headquarters of ANPI (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani) in Milan, Via Ruffini 3.
- (c) Enlistment premium, reported to amount to 100,000 lire.

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New Review Date: 2008

Document No. 004

CLASSIFICATION

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class

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3. It is pointed out that in cases 2 (a) and (b) the place of origin of the two reports is the same and that therefore this is probably a case of duplication. 2 (c) is reported again by two sources and is also confirmed by a third in the report regarding recruitment of Mellini. Reported salaries and death benefits for the volunteers vary from source to source.
4. On the basis of information collected to date, it can be safely stated that there have been instances of scattered individual recruiting and that probably the departure of some individuals for Yugoslavia and Albania, in connection with the Greek fighting, has taken place. Indications are, however, that these are individual cases (possibly including provocation reports) and that actual recruiting on any scale has not been started.
5. In view of the fact that reports received cannot be edited properly in an interim report, as many also relate activities reportedly taking place in other zones of Italy, they are transcribed below as received.

II. Report # 1

6. An international brigade composed of non-Greek nationals, is reported to have headquarters at Split, with detachments at Castelnuovo, Castelveccchio, Grobnica, all in Istria, and at Kustendil. Commanding officer is reported to be Krsto Stojkov, Russian or Bulgarian general. Vice-Commissar is reported to be Vladimir Sanov, Yugoslav Communist. Pilots have been assigned to this brigade. The pilots are being trained at the "Savezni Odbor Sportsko Vazduhoplovstvo", an aerial sporting club of Belgrade; instructors are former Russian, German and Yugoslav Air Force pilots.
7. A group of members of the above mentioned brigade is reported to have arrived in Milan recently to organize a battalion to be headed by a Yugoslav officer. No confirmation of this report has been received.
8. It is certain, however, that recruiting is taking place in the Milan Province, particularly at Sesto San Giovanni; three young Communists left the latter town a few weeks ago headed for Greece. Recruiting is also taking place in Novara Province, particularly at Verbania, Omegna and Willadossola.
9. Reliable sources report, however, that only a few people have been recruited so far, as the majority (of those approached) prefer to fight the Greek Fascists only orally.
10. Enlistees receive a 100,000 lire bonus. They are dispatched via Milan-Bari-Albania then to Greece. The crossing of the Adriatic is made mostly with fishing boats. It is reported that between 20 June and 10 July 1947 nearly 900 Communists recruited by Tito officers left in small groups via the ports of Ancona and Trieste.
11. The above information has not been confirmed.

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12. Recruiting and payment of premiums etc., is carried out in Milan in the offices of the Anarchist group Baciocchi, in Via Ceresio 12. The selection of volunteers, who before enlisting must prove their Communist faith, and all the administrative details are handled at the ANPI headquarters in Via Ruffini 3.
13. Another organization in charge of recruiting and dispatching to Albania of Communist elements seems to be the P.A.R.A.T.O. (probably Apparat). This organization seems to be involved in the trafficking of arms to be used for equipping the volunteers. The arms are smuggled out of the arms factories of Brescia, and of the Breda works of Sesto San Giovanni. The material is sent to Southern Italy to be shipped to Albania on the same boats used for the transportation of volunteers. One of the leaders of this organization is reported to be Giovanni Sem, operating in Liguria with one Brigante, and one Corradi.
14. Other international brigade units are located in Venezia Giulia, and are reportedly called "Stalin's Brigades". These units are reported to have received in June, 20,000 cans of meat shipped from Switzerland and smuggled into Italy at the border crossing of Maslianico.
15. All matters regarding the recruiting and armament of recruits are under the direction of Luigi Longo, who as the organizer and later the political commissar of the international brigades in Spain is an expert in these affairs. Another organizer is Pietro Secchia, head of the clandestine organization of the PCI (Italian Communist Party). The chief organizer in the Novara Province is Moscatelli. All funds are supplied by Russia, which also furnished large quantities of arms of the latest models, sent through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

III. Report No. 2

16. Moscatelli is reported to have met Tito in Fiume recently. The purpose of the meeting is now known. This information originates with a Fiume resident recently arrived in Italy.
17. Propaganda for the recruiting of the international brigade for Greece is carried out throughout Italy. Recruiting centers are in Turin, Milan, and Bologna. No information, however, is available for Bologna.
18. The chief organizer in Milan is reported to be Pietro Secchia, military commander of Milan Communists. Other Communist and leftist personalities involved are: Vittorio Flecchia, Luigi Longo, Vincenzo Moscatelli, Velio Spano, Bonfantini, Valerio (Walter Audisio), and Carlo Andreoni. Flecchia shares with Secchia the leadership of the recruiting and propaganda offices, while Longo is the leader of the military organizations. Moscatelli is the second in command of the brigades fighting in Greece - the CO is reportedly a Polish Jew from Leningrad. Valerio and Longo maintain liaison between Italy and Greece, travelling under false names. Spano is in charge of arms and supplies. Andreoni and Bonfantini have political assignments.
19. The recruits receive 100,000 lire upon enlisting; 100,000 lire are also sent to the family which is to receive 8,000 lire in case of death.

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20. It is believed that up to July 1947, 2,000 men were shipped to Greece in small groups from Bari.
21. Weapons and ammunitions have been sent by the Breda factory in Sesto San Giovanni to Yugoslavia and Albania, via trucks to the Adriatic sea-coast, thence via small fishing boats. The traffic has been stopped by the police recently.
22. The above information was allegedly obtained from a letter written by the director of Turin edition of Unita to his wife, at present in Moscow.

IV. Report No. 3

23. The recruiting offices of "Volunteers for Freedom" (Communist volunteers for Greece), are located at:
- (a) Via Cerosio 12 - Anarchist headquarters "Baciocchi". This office carries out actual recruiting.
 - (b) Via Fratelli Ruffini 3 - ANPI headquarters. This office takes care of financial arrangements and furnishes false identity documents.
24. All Communist, Socialist, Fusionist, Anarchist and Historical Republican party sections have been instructed to propagandize the movement and provide material assistance to those in need.
25. Chief organizer of the recruiting is Pietro Secchia. Luigi Longo is his main collaborator. Pietro Nenni is the honorary president of the Volunteer for Freedom organization, whose members operate at present in Greece and Spain.
26. A certain Flam (alias) and Geminale Concordia alias Michele are among the main recruiters in Milan.

V. Report No. 4.

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27. Investigation on subject matter has given meager results, related below:

- (a) Carmen Schaveni - born Madrid, 19 April 1915; widow of a certain Caselli and at present living with Antonio Mattiello. Schaveni was in Milan up to about the middle of June 1947. She and Mattiello lived in Via Francesco Sforza 19 in the same apartment with Professor Francesco Ulivelli, a propagandist of the PSI. Schaveni and Mattiello are reported to have left for Naples, where they are believed to be recruiting for the international brigade. Ulivelli has also left Milan for an unknown destination.
- (b) Schaveni is a Spaniard and took active part in Anarchist formations during the Civil War. At the end of that war she fled to various countries, and arrived in Italy in the summer of 1945. She is a very active propagandist of extremist tendencies.

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often attacking even Communists whom she accuses of not being entirely faithful to Marx. In practice, however, she agrees with them especially as far as Greece is concerned.

- (c) Schaveni was a frequent caller at the headquarters of the Italian Anarchist Federation and of the Italian Libertarian Federation, both located at Via Albania 36. She also visited often the Italian Libertarian Communist Federation, Via Sabotino 10, and sometimes she was seen at the headquarters of the Partito Comunista Internazionale at Via Ceresio 12.
- (d) Schaveni's activity as a propagandist bore good results, but as a result of quarrels with local Communists, she was advised to go elsewhere. The few persons who knew her seemed to believe that she and her associates could be trusted to perform any activity, including terroristic acts.

28. Of the political centers above mentioned, particularly interesting is the Via Sabotino 10 address where the Federazione Comunista Libertaria Italiana has its offices. It is strongly suspected that recruiting is taking place here since volunteers for Spain have been recruited here recently.

30. The above mentioned organizations, listed below with the names of their leaders, agreed in the past to carry out propaganda and send volunteers to Spain against Franco, but do not seem to be successful in recruiting partisans to be sent to Greece. There are reports to the effect that the few anarchists stated to have been sent were not satisfied with their treatment at the hands of the Communists. The list of Schaveni's contacts follow:

- (a) Partito Comunista Internazionale - Prof. Onorato Damen
- (b) Federazione Anarchica Italiana - Mario Mantovani
- (c) Federazione Libertaria Italiana - De Luca
- (d) Federazione Comunista Libertaria Italiana - directed by several people, among whom is Bruno Maffi, son of the Communist Deputy.

31. A strange political group, called Movimento Umanitario Italiano, and which may have some connection with recruiting for international brigades, appeared recently in Milan. This group carries out activities which are not of a clear political or social nature. The leaders are the Pracasso brothers, and the office is located at Via Canonica 47.

32. The "Movimento" was reportedly financed by one Attanasio who has never been identified. During the last month there have been about 30 callers at the above "office", all of whom have left Milan after a few days. One of the recent arrivals is a certain De Margherita.

33. Other information on the international brigade states that the volunteers are sent to Toulouse, where they receive some kind of training, then return to Italy to proceed to their final destination via Trieste

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or Ravenna or Ancona. It is suspected that volunteers are being sent by the ANPI and the Fronte della Gioventu.

34. There are various indications, unconfirmed because of lack of adequate possibilities, that the recruiting center is at the Vittorio Emanuele Bar in Via Orefici [REDACTED] Comment: a very crowded spot in the center of Milan), a bar with a very mixed clientele, nearly always crowded with Albanians, Greeks, Yugoslavs and Italians, all engaged in convincing people to go and fight "for the freedom of the peoples". Preferably the individuals speak to persons wearing military insignia, offering at least to double their present income. The recruiters make it clear that they do not care whether the prospective recruits were Fascists in the past, but are only concerned with their willingness to go and fight.

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35. The notorious Greek Elia Liarutzos has reappeared in Milan. At the Hotel Internazionale where he usually stays, there is the usual meeting of traffickers and suspect individuals. Many of the callers at this hotel and at other meeting places of known international traffickers, often disappear and it is suspected that they are being sent to fight in Greece. Investigation is continuing.

VI. Report No. 5

36. In May 1947, a Russian or Yugoslav by the name of Malechhof or Melechhof arrived in the Novara zone and contacted some ANPI members, discussing details for collaboration with his Government in case of an armed insurrection. No particulars on these conversations are available. It is known, however, that early in June Malechhof returned to Novara and drove around the nearby zone, often stopping in the vicinity of an abandoned emergency airfield used during the war.
37. The above report is taken as a confirmation of a previous report stating that the ANPI had requested from the Air Ministry the authority to use abandoned emergency airfields for agricultural purposes. This request was believed to cover the intention of using the fields for possible action in connection with an insurrection or for other clandestine purposes.

VII. Report No. 6

38. An individual offered a chance in June to enlist with the "Brigate Internazionali Proletarie" was given the choice of collaborating in Italy with the organization or of becoming a member of the units fighting in Greece. The individual in question was not given any details outside of some financial promises and a guarantee for his position - as he had stated he was a member of the X Mas. He was told to report to the Communist headquarters at Foggia and to inquire for a certain "Brandolin" using the password "Genzian".

VIII. Report No. 7

39. Alfredo Mellini, former member of the Turin Brigade More, a tall, thin individual, three fingers missing from the right hand, has been recently recruited for a special mission in the Puglia Area. Upon completion of this mission, Mellini is expected to leave for Greece and join the Communist partisans.

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40. The organization of which Mellini is a member is called "Alfonso Garcia", and is believed to be a brigade or a unit of a proletarian group.
41. Mellini stated he had been recruited at the Communist headquarters by a representative of the "Alfonso Garcia" formation in Bologna. Mellini was given 100,000 lire upon enlistment, and guaranteed 70,000 lire for his family every month beginning with his departure for Greece.
42. Mellini has not furnished any information on the nature of his mission in Puglia and on the identity of the persons he is to meet. He has spoken of contacts and liaison with Yugoslavs arriving by boat and spots on the coast to be used for loading or unloading of men and material.

IX. Report No. 8

43. No recruiting center for the international brigade exists in Northern Italy, nor any organization for the dispatching of such brigades to Greece or its borders. Following newspaper reports concerning this alleged activity, the Central Direction of the FCI has issued a circular, signed by Longo, cautioning all PCI members against accepting any invitation to join Greek anti-Government formations. The circular specifically states that acceptance of such invitations would favor the provocative game started by the foes of Communism.
44. It is reported that 7 or 8 Trotskyites and Anarchists, former members of the Movimento Resistenza Partigiana, have announced their intention to go and fight with the Greek rebels. They could not carry out this intention because of the lack of any organization to reach Greece.

X. Report No. 9

45. Recruiters in Turin are the Pecchioli brothers, employed with Comando Militare Regionale Piemontese (C.M.R.P.) office in Turin. Recruits are assembled in the Doc-Milano Hotel then moved to the Porta Nuova station for shipment.
46. All recruits leave with false identity papers, prepared mainly by the sister of Moscatelli, who is an employee in the Registry office of the Turin City Hall.

XI. Report No. 10

47. The author claims to have read personally the original of a letter bearing the official CLN (Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale) stamp of Turin and signed by "Capitano Morra", asking the addressee (name not shown to author) to "recruit W/T operators for the international brigades to be sent to Greece via Yugoslavia, according to orders issued by Hon. Longo".
48. The stamp, circular, read "C.M.R.P. - Ufficio Stralcio" along the edge and the "C.L.N." in the center.

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49. Longo is reported to be the organizer for the international brigade and is believed to be at present in Sicily to control the movements of the recruits.

XII. Report No. 11

50. An individual in close contact with various political personalities and well-placed in the economic field in Turin, has submitted the following report.

- (a) National meeting of the ANPI. After long discussions a complete scission has occurred between Garibaldini and moderate elements of other parties, who have taken a clear anti-Communist stand.
- (b) C.M. R. P. (Comitato Militare Regionale Piemontese). Representatives of Giustizia e Libertà have broken away in this sector also. The Committee is clearly split in pro and anti Communist forces.
- (c) PCI cells. It has been decided:
 - (1) to send volunteers to the Greek front;
 - (2) to keep ready for any emergency and wholly execute party orders;
 - (3) to sabotage emigration not organized by the Communist Party;
 - (4) intensify enrollment in the party of individuals who are courageous and ready for anything as well as of intellectuals;
 - (5) to fight any organizations not sponsored by the PCI.
- (d) Recruiting of volunteers is apparently directed by Longo. The real head is Spano. The Pecchioli brothers are in charge in Turin. A good deal of the recruiting is done under cover of emigration to France under a regular work contract. From France the recruits are shipped east. A usual meeting place is the hotel located in Via Cernaia, corner of Piazza Porta Susa. (This is the Doc-Milano Hotel previously mentioned).

XIII. Report No. 12

- 51. It is also reported that from the Ferrerie Fiat works in Turin, recipients of large quantities of salvaged Allied war materials, there is a constant smuggling of salvageable weapons.
- 52. The material arrives by means of freight cars and is unloaded by a squad of 60 workmen under the orders of a certain Ollero, first call leader of the workshops and right hand man of Ing. Nicolo' Gioia, PCI cell leader and co-manager of the works.

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53. Check at the exit of the shops is made by Settimo Canzani and Mauro Gentile, both PCI cell members.
54. Head of the transportation section is a certain Vivo or Nico, who acts under Gioia's orders and under the control of Ollero.
55. Another cell member, Basini, receives and controls the incoming material, choosing what is to go out through Ollero and the others. He is the brain of the band.
56. It is believed that the salvageable material goes out of the shop under pretense of being material destined to clients; it is repaired by ordnance experts and then loaded on private cars for unknown destination. Most of the material thus salvaged is of British origin.

XIV. Report No. 13

57. The Pecchioli brothers previously mentioned have been identified as:

- (a) Cesare Galante Ugo Umberto Pecchioli; born Turin 4 July 1919; living at Corso Brunelleschi 1; profession - employee.
- (b) Ugo Paolo Mario Pecchioli, born Turin 14 January 1925. Remaining information as above.

58. The Pecchioli brothers were members of a Garibaldini formation in Val Susa during the clandestine period. They are at present employed with the Comando Militare Regionale Piemontese in Turin. They are engaged in recruiting young workers for emigration to foreign countries. Some of these youths are being shipped as volunteers to Greece.

59. The remainder of this report repeats, almost verbatim, Report No. 9, and Report No. 11, sub-paragraph (d).

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: Note paragraphs 45 and 46, paragraph 50 (d), and paragraph 59; all probably originate with the same sources and should be taken as repetition rather than confirmation of the same information.

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